

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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TAGS: EFIN, EAID, EAGR, UNWFC, OECD

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL BRIEFING ON IFAD

REF: (A) USUN 1431, (B) ROME 5013 (NOTAL), (C) EC BRUSSELS 03561

SUMMARY: HANNAH OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL BRIEFED OECD/DAC GROUP ON PROGRESS ON SETTING UP FUNDING OF IFAD. HANNAH CONFIDENT OPEC WILL CONTRIBUTE BUT TOTAL NOW DELAYED UNTIL PROBABLY OPEC FINANCE MINISTER'S MEETING WEEK OF MAY 10. LACK OF EEC DECISION IS NOW TROUBLESOME. HANNAH IS WAITING RESULTS OF SYG'S REQUEST FOR COUNTRY COMMITMENTS TO IFAD BY APRIL 15. JAPANESE REPORT POSSIBLE EEC REQUEST FOR DELAY. FINALITY OF EEC DECISION NOT CLEAR AT GROUP MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OECD/DAC GROUP MEETING APRIL12, JOHN HANNAH, EXECUTIVE
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DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. BRIEFED GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL

FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. MOST OF BRIEF WAS ON TIMING OF PLEDGING SESSION.

2. HANNAH SAID UN SECRETARY GENERAL WILL CALL PLEDGING SESSION AFTER IT IS CLEAR THAT ENOUGH COUNTRIES ARE IN POSITION TO COMMIT THEMSELVES. THERE IS USUALLY SIX-WEEK LEAD TIME, BUT THIS CAN BE REDUCED FOR IFAD TO 4 WEEKS FROM CALL FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY PLEDGING CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN ROME. WALDHEIM'S CABLE HAS ASKED ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO INFORM HIM OF AMOUNT OF THEIR PLEDGE BY APRIL 15, REALLY AFTER EASTER OR APRIL 20, REFTEL A.

3. OPEC FINANCE MINISTERS WHO HAVE TO MEET TO COMMIT NEW OPEC FUND ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN SCHEDULING MEETING, BUT IT NOW LOOKS LIKE OPEC FINANCE MINISTERS WILL MEET WEEK OF MAY 10. HANNAH'S TRIP TO KUWAIT AND AZIZ'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA CONFIRMED THESE COUNTRIES' SUPPORT FOR IFAD AND ALLOWED WFC OFFICERS TO IMPRESS ON RESPECTIVE FINANCE MINISTERS NEED FOR URGENT ACTION. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT OF WFC MAREI COULD NOT BREAK FREE FROM EGYPT, SO IRAN HAS NOT YET BEEN REVISITED, REFTEL B.

4. THUS, ACCORDING TO HANNAH, SYG PROBABLY CANNOT SEND OUT INVITATIONS TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER WEEK OF MAY 10, SO EARLIEST CONFERENCE DATE WOULD BE 4 WEEKS LATER OF JUST BEFORE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL JUNE 10-13, OR JUST AFTER JUNE 17-19. FINALLY, SYG COULD OPEN SUCH A CONFERENCE ON JUNE 29-JULY 1. THE LATTER DATE IS LAST DATE UN BELIEVES SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD BEFORE SUMMER OR UNTIL AFTER THIRD WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

5. HANNAH NOTED THAT OPEC FUND WILL HAVE 800 MILLION DOLLARS OF WHICH 50 PERCENT IS EXPECTED TO GO TO IFAD. RESULTING 400 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION TO IFAD IS SHORT OF 50 PERCENT OF PROPOSED IFAD TRIGGER OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS, BUT HANNAH WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF NECESSARY OPEC FUND OR OPEC COUNTRIES WITH WHICH HE HAS SPOKEN WILL FIND WAY TO SUBSTANTIALLY MEET DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS.

6. NOW, HANNAH WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT DELAYS CAUSED BY EEC COUNCIL NON-DECISION ON IFAD OF APRIL 9, REFTEL C. JAPAN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANADA HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO IFAD, SO NOW WE MUST WAIT ON EEC AND SEE RESPONSES TO THE SYG'S REQUEST FOR COMMITMENTS.

7. UNDERLING HIS CONFIDENCE, HANNAH CONCLUDED BY ASKING GROUP TO START CONSIDERING NEED FOR REALLY STRONG OFFICERS FOR IFAD. IT IS GENERALLY ANTICIPATED NEW PRESIDENT OF IFAD WILL COME FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY WHICH INCREASES PROBLEM OF FINDING TOP-

NOTCH PERSON.

8. AFTER HANNAH LEFT, EEC COUNTRIES INDICATED THEY DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT HAD OR HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED BY EEC COUNCIL ON IFAD. HOWEVER, FRG AND UK REPS BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT REGARDLESS OF EEC DECISION, THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IFAD EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH EEC. FRENCH REP SPECIFICALLY SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS.

9. JAPANESE DEL SAID HE HAD HEARD EEC WAS REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF RESPONSE TO SYG'S REQUEST UNTIL MAY 15. EEC REPS HAD NOT HEARD OF SUCH A MOVE. LATER, AFTER MEETING, JAPANESE DELEGATE SAID THEY HAD HEARD THIS IN CORRIDORS AT LUXEMBOURG EEC COUNCIL MEETING. HE ALSO SAID THAT OTHER EEC COUNTRIES WERE CONSIDERING REDUCING THEIR PLEDGES TO IFAD AND MENTIONED FRG SPECIFICALLY. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT TELL IF THIS IS JAPANESE WISHFUL THINKING OR BASED ON FACT. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT JIBE WITH WHAT FRG OR UK TELL US. VOLPE

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